Mr. William S. Sessions, Director
Federal Bureau of Investigation
Washington, D.C. 20535

7627 Old Receiver Road
Frederick, Md. 21701
2/8/88

Dear Mr. Sessions,

In your letter to the Washington Post you say that administrative disciplinary action will be taken against those who violate regulations and that the FBI will assist in the prosecution of those who have participated in criminal activity.

I write to give you a chance to make good on your word - if this letter ever reaches you and, if it does, you are not misinformed by those with such motive.

In the past when I wrote the director to make specific complaint about what is for other than FBI SAs criminal activity I later got copies of what the director was told and of other routing of my complaint which then got no answer.

In the recent past, when the FBI decided to make me the first person against whom it would seek money damages in FOIA litigation it swore falsely and in the absence of trial or a hearing got away with it. Then the FBI's primary affiant, after the case was on appeal, disclosed to another records that leave it beyond question - and in court it did not even make pro forma denial - that this money judgement was procured exclusively by perjury fraud and misrepresentation.

There is a court record, the allegations and documentation are in the FBI's files, those files will also disclose that there was no rebuttal, leave alone disproof - not even an unsupported denial - and these are felonies.

What I call to your attention has not been uncommon. What is in this instance unusual is that the FBI itself disclosed the proof of my allegations.

If you were to try to do something about such abuses you'd be considering action against so many you'd face what could amount to a revolution.

And if you were to add to this the distribution of rotten, defamatory information, some within my experience fabricated, what a situation you would face!

If at some time an FBI director ever does what you say you'd do we'd have a much better and effective FBI.

I've read FBI records into six figures and I know that what gets to the director is generally biased at best in such situations.

If you really meant what you wrote the Post I'll cooperate in any way I can. And if this does reach you with any denial of what I say, tell me how to address it and I'll make and send copies at my cost.

Sincerely,

Harold Weisberg

will be the truth, the whole truth, and nothing but the truth, so help you God?

Mr. HOOVER. I do.

The CHAIRMAN. Mr. Rankin will carry on the examination, Mr. Director.

Mr. RANKIN. Mr. Chief Justice, do you want to tell him briefly what our purpose is?

The CHAIRMAN. Oh, yes; it is our practice to make a brief statement before the testimony of each witness, and I will do it now.

Mr. Hoover will be asked to testify in regard to whether Lee H. Oswald was ever an agent, directly or indirectly, or an informer or acting on behalf of the Federal Bureau of Investigation in any capacity at any time, and whether he knows of any credible evidence of any conspiracy, either domestic or foreign, involved in the assassination of President Kennedy.

What he has to say about an article in the National Enquirer, Commission Exhibit No. 837, and concerning the failure to include the name and information concerning special agent Hosty in the initial report of the Oswald address book and any suggestions and recommendations he may have concerning improvements or changes in provisions for the protection of the President of the United States. Now, Mr. Rankin, you may proceed.

Mr. RANKIN. Mr. Hoover, will you state for the record your name and position?

Mr. HOOVER. J. Edgar Hoover, Director of the Federal Bureau of Investigation of the Department of Justice.

Mr. RANKIN. Where do you live, Mr. Hoover?

Mr. HOOVER. I live at 4936 30th Place, Northwest, Washington, D.C.

Mr. RANKIN. And you have been Director of the Bureau for some 40 years according to the newspapers?

Mr. HOOVER. That is correct; since 1924.

Mr. RANKIN. You have furnished us a considerable amount of information, Mr. Hoover, about whether or not Lee Harvey Oswald was ever an agent or acting for the Bureau in any capacity as informer or otherwise at any time. Are those statements correct?

Mr. HOOVER. They are correct. I can most emphatically say that at no time was he ever an employee of the Bureau in any capacity, either as an agent or as a special employee, or as an informant.

Mr. RANKIN. I call your particular attention to Exhibit 835, and suggest that you will find that that is your letter, together with your affidavit about this subject matter, and other matters that you furnished to us concerning this particular subject.

Mr. HOOVER. That is correct.

Mr. RANKIN. Do you wish to add anything?

Mr. HOOVER. No; there is nothing that I desire to add to what appears in this letter and my affidavit which accompanied it to the Commission.

Mr. RANKIN. You have provided many things to us in assisting the Commission in connection with this investigation and I assume, at least in a general way, you are familiar with the investigation of the assassination of President Kennedy, is that correct?

Mr. HOOVER. That is correct. When President Johnson returned to Washington he communicated with me within the first 24 hours, and asked the Bureau to take up the investigation of the assassination because as you are aware, there was no Federal jurisdiction for such an investigation. (It is not a Federal crime to kill or attack the President or the Vice President or any of the continuity of officers who would succeed to the Presidency.)

However, the President has a right to request the Bureau to make special investigations, and in this instance he asked that this investigation be made. I immediately assigned a special force (headed by the special agent in charge at Dallas, Tex.) to initiate the investigation, and to get all details and facts concerning it, which we obtained, and then prepared a report which we submitted to the Attorney General for transmission to the President.

Mr. RANKIN. From your study of this entire matter of the assassination and all in connection with it, do you know of any credible evidence that has ever come to your attention that there was a conspiracy either foreign or domestic involved in the assassination?

Mr. HOOVER. I know of no substantial evidence of any type that would support any contention of that character. I have read all of the requests that have come to the Bureau from this Commission, and I have read and signed all the replies that have come to the Commission.

In addition, I have read many of the reports that our agents have made and I have been unable to find any scintilla of evidence showing any foreign conspiracy or any domestic conspiracy that culminated in the assassination of President Kennedy.

Representative FORD. May I ask this, Mr. Hoover. As I understand your testimony, it is based on the evidence that has been accumulated thus far?

Mr. HOOVER. That is correct, sir.

Representative FORD. Is the Federal Bureau of Investigation continuing its investigation of all possible ramifications of this assassination?

Mr. HOOVER. That is correct. We are receiving and we, I expect, will continue to receive for days or weeks to come, letters from individuals that normally would probably be in the category of what we would call crank letters in which various weird allegations are made or in which people have reported psychic vibrations. We are still running out letters of that character and in turn making a report to this Commission upon it, notwithstanding the fact that on the face of it the allegation is without any foundation. Individuals who could not have known any of the facts have made some very strange statements. There have been publications and books written, the contents of which have been absurd and without a scintilla of foundation of fact. I feel, from my experience in the Bureau, where we are in constant receipt over the years of these so-called crank letters, that such allegations will be going on possibly for some years to come.

I, personally, feel that any finding of the Commission will not be accepted by everybody, because there are bound to be some extremists who have very pronounced views, without any foundation for them, who will disagree violently with whatever findings the Commission makes. But I think it is essential that the FBI investigate the allegations that are received in the future so it can't be said that we had ignored them or that the case is closed and forgotten.

Representative FORD. Could you give us some idea of how many agents are currently working to one degree or another on any aspects of this case?

Mr. HOOVER. I would estimate, Congressman Ford, that there are at the present time at least 50 or 60 men giving their entire time to various aspects of the investigation, because while Dallas is the office of origin, investigation is required in auxiliary offices such as Los Angeles or San Francisco, and even in some foreign countries like Mexico. We have representatives in Mexico City.

At the outset of the investigation, following the assassination, it was the desire of the President to have this report completed by the Bureau just as quickly as possible, and as thoroughly as possible, and I would say we had about 150 then at that time working on the report in the field, and at Washington, D.C.

Now, all the reports that come in from the field are, of course, reviewed at Washington by the supervisor in charge of the case, and then in turn by the assistant director of the division, and then in turn by Mr. Belmont, who is the assistant to the Director.

Reports in which there is a controversial issue or where statements have been made of the existence of some particular thing that we have never heard of before, I myself go over these to see that we haven't missed anything or haven't had any gap in the investigation so it can be tied down.

Recently the National Enquirer had a fantastic article in it as to the existence of a letter that had been written or a request that had been made by the Department of Justice to Chief Curry of the Dallas Police Department, to withhold arresting Rubinstein, or Ruby, and Oswald after the Oswald attempt on General Walker's life.

First, I had the agent in charge at Dallas interview Chief Curry and I have sent to the Commission a letter as to what Chief Curry had to say. He branded it as an entire lie—that he had never received any request of that kind. I had our files searched to be certain we had

Mr. Ben Bradlee, Editor
Washington Post
1150 15 St., NW
Washington, D.C. 20071

7627 Old Receiver Road
Frederick, Md. 21701
2/8/88

Dear Ben,

The enclosed copy of my today's letter to FBI Director Sessions about his recent letter to the Post actually understates. On perjury alone not one of my many FOIA lawsuits was without perjury. That abuse in one of my earliest cases is what led the Congress to amend the investigatory files exemption to open such files and you ought recall the many outrageous files disclosed as a result.

The CISPES case is one of a simply enormous number of contrived bases for FBI investigation when it really wanted to investigate for wrongful political reasons.

Even in the figure of the Klan the Block cartoon was not at all unfair.

The Post was indifferent when I sent copies of the ironclad and undenied proof of perjury, fraud and misrepresentation I refer to. Had the papers not ignored such abuses the country and its law enforcement would have been better off and the widespread practise of official felonies not encouraged.

Beginning with the present attorney general.

To one as familiar with FBI and DJ practises as I have become from the examination of most of the more than a third of a million pages of records I got under FOIA it was obvious that Meese was lying at his press conference for Reagan announcing the Iran/Contra scandal. Now if is public knowledge that his knowledge was much earlier. However, when this had not yet come to light I knew immediately that he'd lied about his right to conduct an investigation - he said he didn't have the right and it would have been wrong - from J. Edgar Hoover's Warren Commission testimony. I sent the enclosed pages of it to the Post, among others, and nobody cared. This is how Meese gave time for the shredding and covering up.

I am at a loss to explain the reluctance to report what by traditional standards is news. Even when one persistent man, in Andy Jackson's phrase, made the system work and FOIA was amended that was not news. It was reported only once, years later, when George Lardner was in the courtroom and heard Judge Gesell say it. He ~~made~~ may remember it.

A conspicuous example of the presidential investigations, without law enforcement purpose that Hoover refers to at the bottom of the page (98, Volume 5) is the massive JFK assassination investigation, still an active case with that classification. Can you imagine the difference if Meese had not then and since gotten away with his very big lie?

Sincerely,

Harold

Harold Weisberg

2/4/88

FBI Director William Sessions Replies

I am writing to express my deep concern about the editorial "A Disgrace to the FBI" [Jan. 26] and the Herblock cartoon that depicts FBI agents in Ku Klux Klan garb [Jan. 28]. I am troubled that some of the media have taken the allegations of discrimination and harassment and depicted them as wholesale, deep-rooted racism within the entire FBI.

These allegations are extremely serious. I have personally instructed that the FBI's investigation of this matter receive priority attention. Because of the pending civil litigation and the ongoing criminal investigation, I cannot properly comment further about the allegations. I can say, however, that administrative disciplinary action will be taken if our standards of conduct or other regulations have been violated. The FBI will assist in any prosecution of individuals found to have participated in criminal activity. Conversely, if the allegations are not substantiated, the individuals against whom they were made should be vindicated by the investigation and/or the courts.

There is, as was so aptly stated in the editorial, no room for racism in the federal work force. I can state unequivocally that racism of any type will not be tolerated in the FBI.

It is the FBI's responsibility to enforce criminal civil rights statutes, and we will continue to do so aggressively and impartially. Our record is good; among those convicted of civil rights violations have been members of the Ku Klux Klan. To depict an FBI agent dressed in a Klan robe seems to me to be unfair and inconsistent with the facts. Because it is our responsibility to investigate these allegations, it is absolutely essential that we not have discriminatory conduct within the FBI. It is contrary to the law and to the spirit of the Constitution.

Since becoming the FBI's director a few months ago, I have seen no indication of systemic discrimination in the FBI. The FBI has made great strides in the recruitment and advancement of minorities. The number of black special agents has more than doubled in the past decade, and more than 40 percent of our black special agents are in the management program. Recruitment and advancement of minorities remain as priorities. It is my sincere hope that the recent press accounts will in no way impede our ongoing efforts in this regard.

WILLIAM S. SESSIONS
Director, Federal Bureau of Investigation
Washington

'Super Bore'

Colman McCarthy's piece on the Super Bowl [op-ed, Jan. 30] was something I never thought anyone would have the courage to write. It was great! I completely agree with him.

I disagreed with Mr. McCarthy when he wrote a column last fall favoring the banishment of dogs, but now we are on the same team. The Super Bowl is indeed a "Super Bore" for many people.

MYRNA M. OLIVER
Alexandria